

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /032 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:LA:NC:FJDEVINE

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ARA:NC:MCFORRESTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

REF: CARACAS 8948

1. DEPARTMENT GREATLY APPRECIATED ELECTION OVERVIEW PROVIDED REFTEL AND COMMENDS EMBASSY FOR DEGREE TO WHICH US LOW PROFILE AND IMPARTIAL STANCE HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AND DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT CAMPAIGN PERIOD. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ANTI-US THEMES CAN CONTINUE TO FIGURE AS LITTLE IN REMAINING CAMPAIGN RHETORIC AS THEY HAVE TO DATE.

2. PARA 4 REFTEL CORRECTLY ASSESSES US STAKE IN FORTH-COMING ELECTION. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN US INTEREST, VENEZUELA'S INTEREST, AND IN FACT HEMISPHERIC INTEREST FOR DECEMBER 9 TO WITNESS FREE, ORDERLY, HONEST EXERCISE IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY FOLLOWED BY PEACEFUL AND CONSTITUTIONAL TURNOVER OF POWER TO WHATEVER LEADERS PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA MAY FREELY ELECT TO GOVERN THEM DURING COMING FIVE YEARS.

3. WITH ELECTION NOW ONLY ONE MONTH AWAY, REQUEST WHATEVER UPDATING EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WITH RESPECT TO OVERVIEW AND ELECTORAL OUTLOOK. RUSH
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